

Libya gives IRA information to U.K

GENEVA (R) — Libya gave information on its past contacts with the Irish Republican Army (IRA) to Britain on Tuesday in a move that could help lessen Tripoli's isolation.

"I received some information, I'm transmitting it to London and we shall study it," British Charge d'Affaires Edward Chaplin, told reporters after a two-hour meeting at the U.N. office in Geneva.

Libya's ambassador to Tunisia, Abdul Amr Al Obeidi, a former foreign minister, headed a four-man Libyan team at the meeting. He said the atmosphere was "very friendly."

Foreign Office officials in London said it could take weeks to assess the information and determine whether Libya had complied fully with Britain's request for information on IRA contacts, arms shipments and other assistance.

"We are now studying this material," a spokeswoman said.

The U.N. has applied sanctions against Libya for what it says is its failure to cooperate in establishing who shot down a Pan Am flight over the Scottish village of Lockerbie in 1989 and a French UTA airliner over Niger in 1988. The bombings killed 41 people.

Britain severed diplomatic relations with Libya in 1984 after a policewoman was shot dead outside the Libyan embassy in London. Ties have been strained since then.

As a condition for improved relations, Britain has demanded proof that Tripoli has ended support for what the Foreign Office calls "international terrorism, including the IRA."

There was no immediate indication that Libya was willing to turn over two Libyans suspected of involvement in the Lockerbie case for trial in Britain or the United States, as London and Washington demand.

Both Mr. Obeidi and Mr. Chaplin avoided questions on the subject.

Mr. Obeidi said the meeting was very useful.

"You thought in the beginning we would not talk, but we talked for two hours," he said. "We talked about our relations, we talked about (U.N.) Security Council Resolution 731."

That resolution, on Jan. 21, called on Libya "to contribute to the elimination of international terrorism" and to answer British, French and U.S. requests about the airliner bombings.

One British request was for information on Libyan arms shipments to the IRA and other assistance it may have given.

Asked if he had given information on the arms shipments, Mr. Obeidi said: "Well, we exchanged a lot of information which is useful to the purposes of Security Council Resolution 731."

Libya says it has renounced terrorism and wrote to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali in May offering to meet Britain's request for information on the IRA.

Sudan rebels say they briefly took part of Juba

NAIROBI (R) — Sudanese rebels said they briefly overran the military headquarters of government-held Juba, the southern capital, and inflicted heavy casualties and damage.

"Commando and associated forces captured (an) artillery unit and southern command headquarters and occupied them for three hours," said a rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) statement dated June 7 and given to Reuters on Monday.

Calling the attack operation "Jungle Storm," it added: "The enemy suffered very heavy casualties in men and equipment, stores were set ablaze and a thick black cloud covered Juba."

Rebel forces were now between three and 10 kilometres from the military headquarters and had occupied six garrisons surrounding the key town of 300,000 people.

The attack, which SPLA sources said was still going on, came just three days after the rebels and government ended talks in Nigeria's capital Abuja.

In the first joint document signed by both parties since the war started in 1983, the two sides said they would work towards an interim arrangement and ensure a devolution of powers to the component parts of Sudan as a way of finding a solution to the war.

But the SPLA statement said the Abuja talks were "a failure" and had collapsed due to the government's rejection of rebel demands for a secular constitution or failing that, secession for the south.

The SPLA is fighting to end what it sees as domination by the Arabised Muslim north over the mainly Christian black south.

Government forces have captured 12 towns in a dry season offensive launched in March. The rebels have been seriously weakened by their expulsion from bases in Ethiopia last year and a split in the leadership last August.

The statement was issued by the mainstream SPLA faction under John Garang.

It said: "The attack on Juba should show the fundamentalist government that it will get the war that it opted for in Abuja."

It said the SPLA would now adopt "classical guerrilla warfare and (avoid) the static defence of cities."

Investigators wade through murky American ties with Iraq, Iran

WASHINGTON (R) — Investigators this summer may unravel complex ties binding U.S. power brokers to Iran and Iraq as they trace charges of wrongdoing by the Republican foreign policy establishment.

In volatile hearings and possible trials, three inquiries will try to untangle a maze of policies spanning a dozen years, hoping to support the allegations or put them to rest.

In the background is the Nov. 3 presidential election, with both Democrats and Republicans looking for any possible political fallout from the Middle East investigations.

The probes centre on complex and at times secret ties between some of the top Republican statesmen of the past decade and the twin superpowers of the Middle East. They are asking questions that reach into the White House.

— Did President George Bush pursue a misguided aid policy that helped arm Iraq in the run-up to the Gulf war?

— Did senior Republicans lie to Congress about the explosive Irangate arms-for-hostages scandal, possibly to shield their superiors?

— Could the Ronald Reagan-Bush campaign team have struck an earlier hostage-weapons swap with Tehran that helped foil President Jimmy Carter's reelection effort of 1980?

Mr. Bush puts the charges down to election-year politics.

And experts say that while the ground is fertile for conspiracy theorists, the investigators are unlikely to dig up hard evidence that hurts Mr. Bush's presidential campaign.

"It's ironic that these things are all coming to head but they are on separate tracks, and by the time the tracks cross in a meaningful way, the election will be long over," said Scott Armstrong, a professor at American University.

"I could have had devastating consequences for the political ambitions of George Bush if the three different tracks converged sooner," Mr. Armstrong said.

The ties span the 1980 rise and reign of the Reagan-Bush team and stretch into the Bush presidency.

Democrats hope the probes will unearth facts that point to blundering or wrongdoing by the Republicans and undermine Mr. Bush's claim as a foreign policy statesman.

"If the find fingerprints on a smoking gun, there is potential for an explosion. But that has to be put in context of the real domestic issues of this campaign," said Kenneth Stein, who advised Carter on the Middle East.

All three of these (investigations) could shoot political blanks, but I'm not one to say never, particularly as far as the Middle East is concerned," Mr. Stein added.

Democrats are fiercely pressing allegations that flawed Republican policy led to secret arms sales to Iraq — arms that were later turned on Kuwait in the Gulf war.

"We tried to work with him," Mr. Bush said of Iraq's Saddam Hussein this week. "I know what we did, it wasn't anything illegal."

But top Democrats want an independent prosecutor to get onto the case after reams of newly declassified memos, some damaging, point to the tight nature of U.S.-Iraqi ties.

"Yes, these probes are political. But yes, they are valid too. There are lessons to be learned," said Daniel Pipes, an analyst at the Foreign Policy Research Institute.

Bush aides admitted they made a bad mistake by granting Baghdad agricultural loans so close to the Kuwait invasion but said the policy seemed prudent at the time. They also stressed there was no proof that Baghdad used the money to buy arms.

"There nonetheless exists the potential to play into the election, particularly if the Bush administration handles it badly," said Geoffrey Kemp, a senior adviser to Mr. Reagan and now an analyst at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"But in the absence of some smoking gun, I think the stories have gone about as far as they can go," he said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Emir allows 64 Bahraini exiles to return

BAHRAIN (AP) — Bahrain's ruler, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, has granted amnesty to 64 Bahrainis living in exile since 1980 on the occasion of the feast of Eid Al Adha, it was reported Tuesday. This was the second batch of Bahrainis allowed to return after being abroad for more than a decade. Two months ago, on the occasion of Ramadan, the emir granted a similar amnesty to 57. It is customary in all Islamic countries for rulers to declare amnesties or pardon large numbers of prisoners on the occasion of main Muslim or national feasts. The official announcements say these Bahrainis "left the country of their own accord after committing violations of laws and regulations and disrupting the safety and security of the country." It is not known if more Bahrainis are in the same predicament abroad. Nor were there details on the purported security violations.

Radical group pulls out of Ethiopia polls

ADDIS ABABA (R) — An Ethiopian radical Islamic political group on Monday said it had withdrawn from regional elections to be held on June 21 because of intimidation. The Islamic Front for the Liberation of Oromia (IFLO), one group representing the populous Oromo tribe, said in a statement its offices had been closed down in Addis Ababa and other towns and "thousands" of supporters were detained. It added that forces of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), which dominates the government, were hunting down IFLO supporters in the Oromos' home areas. Diplomats say the northern, Christian-based EPRDF has clashed on several occasions with IFLO forces in the southeast of the country and killed top IFLO leaders in shootouts.

French-Arab youths protest friend's death

PARIS (R) — French youths of Arab origin rampaged through a Paris working-class suburb after one of their friends was killed in a knife fight at the weekend, officials said on Tuesday. Regional administrator Jean Maffreit told reporters several dozen youths smashed shop windows and damaged parked cars in the centre of Argenteuil, north of Paris, on Monday evening and again around midnight. At least three were arrested. Reporters at the scene said the youths, French-born children of immigrants from former French North African colonies, believed the killing of their 19-year-old friend was racially motivated. Detectives investigating the case told local newspapers they believed the youth, on leave from service as a conscript in the French army, was peddling hashish when killed by a client in a dispute over prices.

Israel to acquire Berlin embassy building

WASHINGTON (AP) — In another twist brought by the end of the cold war, a building long known as communist Cuba's embassy in east Berlin is to become the Israeli embassy for unified Germany, courtesy of its Jewish owners. With Berlin replacing Bonn as the German capital, Israeli plans to move its embassy into the Berlin structure, the U.S.-based World Jewish Congress (WJC) said Monday. WJC Executive Director Elan Steinberg said the building, located in the heart of recently unified Berlin, was used as a school for deaf-mutes until the Nazis came to power in 1933 and confiscated all Jewish-owned properties. With the 1945 allied victory, East Berlin became the capital of communist East Germany, and the authorities gave the former Jewish school to Cuba, their close ally, to use as an embassy. The Cubans now maintain a diplomatic presence in Bonn and it is not known when or whether they will move it to Berlin.

Kurdish journalist killed in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — A Kurdish newspaper journalist was killed by an unidentified gunman in the southeastern city of Diyarbakir, an official of the daily said on Tuesday. Hafiz Akdemir, 27, was killed by a single shot to his head on Monday morning as he walked to the offices of the Ozgur Gundem where he worked as a reporter, editor Veli Ozdemir told Reuters. The gunman escaped on foot. Mr. Akdemir had served a seven-year jail term for separatism from 1984 for his links with the Kurdish National Liberation (KUK), a secessionist group active in the late 1970s. The banned Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) has been leading the fight for an independent Kurdish state in the southeast since 1984. More than 3,800 people have been killed in the insurgency, Mr. Ozdemir said. Mr. Akdemir's slaying bore similarities to the killing of three other journalists in the southeast in the past, who all died after being shot in the head.

Amnesty regrets German arms deliveries

ETTILINGEN, Germany (R) — The human rights organisation Amnesty International criticised the Bonn government on Monday for lifting its arms embargo on Turkey. The decision gave the wrong message about the human rights situation in Turkey, the German branch of Amnesty said in a resolution at its annual conference. Germany said last week it had decided to remove its ban on military aid to NATO partner Turkey after Ankara promised German weapons would not be used against guerrillas at home. Relations were soured when Bonn stopped supplying military aid in March saying Turkey used German-supplied armoured cars against the Kurdish minority in the south-east in violation of a pledge not to use such arms in domestic conflicts. In their resolution, Amnesty delegates said: "Still we hear more reports of murders and massacres of Kurdish villagers in south-east Turkey." In view of this, it is to be feared that German weapons will again be used in the future to commit shameful acts such as torture and murder under the pretext of defending against terrorist actions.

Iran rebels say kidnapped activist still in Turkey

ANKARA (Agency) — An Iranian opposition group has appealed to Turkey to save the life of a dissident allegedly kidnapped in Istanbul last week.

"Mr. Mansour Amini was kidnapped last Thursday in Istanbul. According to the latest information, he still remains captive in Turkey and (is) held in centres belonging to the (Iranian) regime's terrorists," said a message from the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq of Iran, which opposes the Islamic fundamentalist government in Iran.

Mr. Amini was reported missing last week.

The group charged that he was kidnapped by the Iranian secret service agents to be smuggled into Iran and questioned about the downing of an Iranian jet in April during a raid on Mujahadeen bases in Iraq.

The Iranian embassy here on Monday dismissed the allegation, charging that the disappearance reflected "an internal struggle" within the opposition ranks.

Masoud Rajavi, the leader of the Mujahadeen, had sent a message to Turkish Premier Suleyman Demirel, urging close control of the border and Iranian missions to prevent Mr. Amini's transfer, the statement said.

In 1988, Turkey captured five Iranians who were trying to smuggle a dissident out into Iran in a car. Two Iranian diplomats, allegedly implicated, were later withdrawn, apparently on Ankara's request.

Last week's operations in Turkey were commanded from Tehran by Guards Corps Brigadier General Hossein Moshleh, commander of the Qods Force's directorate of operations, said the Mujahadeen statement. As the commandant of the Guards Corps' Lebanon expeditionary forces, Moshleh supervised the bombings of the barracks of the U.S. Marines and French troops in Beirut in 1983. On his return to Iran, he became the commander of the largest Guards Corps force in the Iran-Iraq war — the First Corps (Sarollah). Since the formation of the Qods Force in 1990, Moshleh has been one of its most senior commanders.

'Kenya rejected Saudi arms ships'

Sudanese officials on Monday said Kenya had refused docking facilities at its Mombasa port to two Saudi Arabian ships allegedly carrying weapons for the southern rebels, but Kenya denied knowledge of the incident.

The SPLA is fighting to end what it sees as domination by the Arabised Muslim north over the mainly Christian black south.

Government forces have captured 12 towns in a dry season offensive launched in March. The rebels have been seriously weakened by their expulsion from bases in Ethiopia last year and a split in the leadership last August.

The statement was issued by the mainstream SPLA faction under John Garang.

It said: "The attack on Juba should show the fundamentalist government that it will get the war that it opted for in Abuja."

It said the SPLA would now adopt "classical guerrilla warfare and (avoid) the static defence of cities."

Six members of another group, whose leader was believed to be a supporter of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), were arrested in the Aures mountain area of Raïs Layaoun near Batna in eastern Algeria.

Two other people were arrested at a road block in the town of Larbaa, 25 kilometres south of Algiers, when police found a submachinegun in their vehicle.

Earlier, Algiers Radio reported that more than 600 Muslim fundamentalists have been released from a desert detention camp to coincide with 'Eid Al Adha holiday.

Several hundred other detainees arrested and held without charges under the government's Feb. 9 state of emergency have been released in the past week, the radio said. An exact number was not available.

The 641 people freed from the Bordj Omar driss detention centre southwest of Algiers effectively emptied the camp, the radio said.

Mohammed Boudiaf, head of the army-backed high state committee which seized power in January, promised the releases to coincide with 'Eid Al Adha to be celebrated Thursday.

Three other detention centres are to be closed and detainees moved to the north. Temperatures in the overcrowded desert camps are climbing towards 40 degrees C (104 degrees F).

Thousands of people have been arrested since the government took power, cancelled legislative elections that likely would have been won by the FIS and banned the party. Most of the party leaders are in custody, and troops continue to pursue armed fundamentalists who have vowed to fight.

More than 60 police and security forces have been wounded or killed since mid-February.

A retired police officer driving through an Algiers suburb was shot and killed Sunday by unknown gunmen who fled in another car.

On Friday, the bullet-riddled body of a young policeman was discovered in an Algiers cemetery, one day after he had been abducted from outside his home. The killers were still at large, police said.

The government, meanwhile, has announced a series of measures it hopes will improve the economy and undermine grassroots support for fundamentalism among poor, urban youth.

But on Monday, a human rights group sent an open letter to the government complaining of the scarcity of medicine and its skyrocketing price.

Algeria arrests 14 armed Muslim activists, releases 641 detainees

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algerian security forces arrested 14 armed Muslim activists in various parts of the country at the weekend, the official news agency APS said on Monday.

The included six suspected members of the Armed Islamic Movement in Algeria (MIAA), which issued a statement on May 20 saying it would launch holy war against police and magistrates from June 20.

Quoting paramilitary police sources, APS said the six were found in possession of explosives at Baraki, 45 kilometres south of Algiers. About 10 other members of the group were arrested a few days before, the agency added.

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Jordan calls for end to differences

(Continued from page 1)

path despite the challenges which started with the Arabisation of the army.

The writer noted that Jordan had started the process of democratisation as far back as 1957 but had stumbled. "For more than 30 years (since then) Jordan lived through a stage of variables fall of dangers which reached their peak in the 1967 war," he said.

The Al Karameh Battle of March 1968 was a turning point for Jordan to end the state of deterioration and defeat, he wrote. The 1970s constituted a stage of attaining reconstruction and launching a number of development projects and building infrastructure.

The Jordanian economy, he said, managed to attain a high rate of growth accompanied by the spread of education so that Jordan has 10 universities, including three government-owned universities.

The writer said these changes were not concomitant with political developments and that is why King Hussein decided to quickly resume parliamentary life, which had come to a standstill after the severance of formal links with the West Bank in 1968, and held parliamentary elections in 1989.

"In Jordan no-one can say that any specific party is the government since the regime does not have a party that rules in his name and this could be attributed to the fact that the supreme leadership of the country enjoys the endorsement of everyone," Mr. Bakr wrote.

"Everybody, from the extreme right to the left, to the independent to the leftists, disagree with each other everything, but they agree on one thing: The King himself is the continuation of the monarchy."

The 1989 elections, he noted, were held under the supervision of Sharif Zeid and "all observers had agreed that the elections produced the first Parliament which enjoys full freedoms and freedom of the press."

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PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Le Monde est a vous

19:00 News in French

19:15 Carre Vert

19:30 News in Hebrew

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Opening ceremony of the European soccer championship: Denmark vs England

22:00 News in English

22:30 A Tale of two Cities

PRAYER TIMES

03:51 Fajr

05:25 (Sunrise) Duha

12:54 Dhuhr

16:14 Asr

19:42 Maghreb

21:16 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedieh, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637285

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terraviva Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 673691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be relatively hot and some clouds will appear at various altitudes. Winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 19 / 33

Aqaba 22 / 38

Deserts 16 / 34

Jordan Valley 21 / 36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 38. Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 15 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Abdul Hadi Tawees 630115

Dr. Mohammed Al-Nahel 639233

Dr. Mohammed Mansour 914444

Dr. Basim Qaddoumi 640204

Firas pharmacy 661912

Pardous pharmacy 778336

Al-Azma pharmacy 637053

Nairouth pharmacy 623672

Al-Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shamsi pharmacy 637660

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 63041

Rescue 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 845402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 771111

Radio Jordan 771111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power

HOSPITALS

Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53202

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53202

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272725

Raj Al-Nabtes Hospital (02)947100

AQAHA

Frances Hays Hospital (03)341111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45 Abu Dhabi (RJ)

07:00 Jordan (RJ)

07:10 Sharjah, Abu Dhabi (GF)

07:20 Cairo (MS)

07:30 Paris, Damascus (AF)

07:45 Damascus (PK)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:20 Damascus (RJ)

07:30 Tunis, Chismana (RJ)

07:40 Istanbul (RJ)

07:50 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

08:00 London (RJ)

08:10 Cairo (RJ)

08:20 Asmara (RJ)

08:30 Colombo (RJ)

08:40 Cairo (RJ)

08:50 Riyadh (RJ)

09:00 Dhahran (RJ)

09:10 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

09:20 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

09:30 London (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:45 Damascus (PK)

06:55 Beirut (MS)

07:05 Cairo (MS)

07:15 Sams (TY)

07:25 Jordan (RJ)

07:35 Sharjah, Abu Dhabi (GF)

07:45 Paris, Damascus (AF)

07:55 Damascus (PK)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple (red) 700 / 600

Banana 500 / 450

Banana (Mukawana) 500 / 500

Bone 500 / 250

Broad beans 300 / 250

Cabbage 120 / 100

Carrot 220 / 160

Cauliflower 110 / 80

Cumbers (large) 100 / 50

Cumbers (small) 100 / 50

Eggplant 160 / 70

Garlic (green) 320 / 250

Lemon 600 / 500

Marrow (large) 100 / 50

Marrow (small) 170 / 120

Onion (dry) 140 / 80

Onion (green) 120 / 100

Oranges 400 / 250

Peaches 720 / 620

Peanut 330 / 260

Pepper (hot) 280 / 220

Pepper (sweet) 280 / 220

Potato 210 / 150

Radish 150 / 100

Sage 170 / 100

Tomato 100 / 80

Home News



JORDAN CELEBRATES REVOLT — Jordan today (Wednesday) celebrates Army and Great Arab Revolt Day, a revolt led by the late Sharif Hussein Ben Ali earlier this century to fulfill the aspirations of the Arab nation in liberation, independence and unity. On the eve of the anniversary, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, paid tribute to the late Sharif Hussein for his endeavours to serve his nation and his effort to provide protection to the holy places of Palestine and Jerusalem and his relentless drive to bring about liberation to the Arab world from French and British colonial rule. (see p. 5). Jordan, which inherited the Great Arab



Revolt, its principles and objectives, is still striving to achieve those same goals in cooperation with the Arab states, said Petra. Following in the footsteps of his ancestors and his grandfather, the late King Abdullah, founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, His Majesty King Hussein has given due care and concern to the Jordanian Armed Forces, continuously providing these forces with the means to provide protection to the homeland, said Petra. In the course of achieving this goal, the agency said, King Hussein created Muta University with its military institute to train and turn out capable and efficient officers to lead the Arab forces towards



achieving the objectives of the Great Arab revolt. Petra said that the Royal Court Tuesday received cables of good wishes addressed to King Hussein and the Hashemite family from heads and representatives of various public and private sectors in Jordan. The cables, which included those sent by the prime minister and other dignitaries, voiced support for the King's continued endeavours to confront the Zionist plots and end injustice to the Palestinian people. Petra said that the cables paid tribute to the King for his call on the Arab states to transcend splits and differences created by the Gulf crisis and to unite their ranks in a



drive to seek a just and durable peace in the Middle East region. Also on the eve of the anniversary, field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of The Jordanian Armed Forces, sent a cable to King Hussein reaffirming the allegiance of the Armed Forces to the Hashemite throne and paying tribute to the leaders of the Great Arab Revolt who led the struggle for freedom for the Arab world. On the occasion, all government departments and public institutions will remain closed Wednesday and will also close Thursday through Monday as a public holiday marking the Eid Al Adha (feast of sacrifice).

Ancient theatre to resound with contemporary sound of Lebanese musician, Marcel Khalifeh

By Ica Wahbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The musician who rejects labels, does not believe in "artificial" symbols and professes a human approach to his art, the Lebanese Marcel Khalifeh, is in Amman for the second time to perform in front of an audience that holds him in awe.

"I live the life of a normal Arab citizen. Whatever I feel I translate into music," he says trying to dispel the myth of a super hero, of a person living in his ivory tower.

"My ambitions are simple, nothing philosophical. All our life is sad. We cry, have problems, worry. Every parting could be the last one; even sending our children to school is done with a sense of finality. I ask for little. I want to preserve life and find happiness."

Little indeed, but not much so when living in war-torn Lebanon and with the intensity that seems to pervade the little frame of the artist who gesticulates when talking, wringing his hands, trying to convey his feelings expressively.

In town for a few days, with his 30-member group Al Mayadeen, Mr. Khalifeh is performing between June 10-13 at the Roman Amphitheatre in downtown Amman for, again, a humanitarian cause. Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped has organised the event whose proceeds will go to the handicapped.

The concert will have, according to the artist, both old and new songs. The new ones, he says, are going to be more violent. "We can never say no. We have been trampled on for so long. At least in songs we have the power to say no," Mr. Khalifeh says, adding that a strong reaction and in-

teraction from and with the audience is expected. What the group wants, Mr. Khalifeh says, is to change the sentimentalism of the Arabic songs. "We will be more aggressive, we will shout in our new songs." Poets whose verses Mr. Khalifeh has put in music include Lebnaan, Talal Haydar and Mohammad Abdallah, and Palestinian, Mahmoud Darwish.

While calling their songs nationalistic, but "not inflammatory," Mr. Khalifeh strongly affirms his creed: "I am not a touristic artist. I do not sing for towns, I sing for people, about people." It is also an assertion that tries to absolve the musicians of the "guilt" of not singing, as one reporter put it, for Amman, Beirut, or some other "convenient" town.

"We touch on a variety of themes and sing for a variety of causes: Lebanese, Palestinian, Arab. We sing for people from all walks of life: a driver, a grocer, a revolutionary. But I do not believe in certain symbols. I am not concerned about the new world order. I care for people."

Asked about the projects and music for the future, Mr. Khalifeh talked about traditions; popular or religious, he says traditions are used for his "new style" music. His music, known as the new song for some time, "has become old. Let's just call it song," he says, reiterating that music is his life, that the song is "the easiest way to be near people."

The issue of intifada not having been present enough in his songs is presented by Mr. Khalifeh as a technical problem and not one of uninvolved. "Art can never reach and represent the intensity of real life. The artist tries to equal life in his/her representations, but it is not easy. But it is not true we did not sing



Marcel Khalifeh

enough about the children of the stone," Mr. Khalifeh says enumerating quite a few titles of songs dedicated to the intifada.

The musician, born in the village of Amsbit, just north of Beirut, explains how the songs came into being. "I would like a poem and put it into music. No poet wrote especially for me. I did not even know any until recently when I came to know some. But my music is an easy vehicle for the poems. The audience takes (absorbs) the poetry easier from my music."

Amid the questions asked by the journalists, the one regarding the entrance fees seemed to elicit the most talk. Defending the price (JD 7, not much higher than a sophisticated hamburger at a fancy restaurant), a spokesman explained that the group subsists on its music and that it never performed but for a humanitarian cause.

"We do not have a salary at the end of the month. And we do not have an institution supporting us. Even singing for free would request lots of permissions from lots of ministries, a task not easy to take to an end," he said, adding that paying all legal dues and transportation is the group's responsibility.

"Even a video of our performance has to be paid for by us," was another statement, which brought up the issue of piracy and lack of copy rights in Arab countries. But that was not as bitterly resented by the artists as their inability to get visas to "some Arab countries, where maybe Jews would get in without any problem."

Whatever the problems they face or faced, the musicians remain committed to translating into music their feelings and experiences. And to serving the cause of the people they represent and from whose traditions they draw their roots.



JORDANIAN PRODUCTS ON EXHIBIT — Under the patronage of His Excellency Dr. Abdullah Essour and deputising for him, Dr. Marwan Al Awad opened an exhibition at the Plaza Hotel. The exhibition contains displays of leather goods, embroidery, upolstery, accessories, glassware and marble. Thirty companies are participating in the exhibit which portrays the advancement of the Jordanian product.

Arab Doctors Union to attend human rights meeting in Libya

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Committee for Human Rights will discuss in its meeting issues such as human rights and the new world order, human rights in the Third World and the Arab democratic model.

The committee will also discuss the importance of a new international order for human rights, changing means and procedures for preserving human rights, reforming the United Nations' system and finding an international judicial system for combating terrorism, Dr. Khreis added.

Dr. Khreis said that the union will also be presented at a celebration by President Qadhafi with a human rights award which is devoted this year to the establishment of an international centre for combating AIDS.



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By Dr. Abdalla Malki

Jordan Times

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Economic Forum

The financial and real economy

Although it was a setback to Jordan and its economy in many aspects, the Gulf crisis was, in financial terms, a blessing in disguise. Related inflows of foreign aid tided the treasury over lean times and returned remittances served to boost the foreign exchange reserves of the Kingdom.

Before the crisis, Jordan's foreign aid targets did not go beyond acquiring a maximum of \$200-300 million of Arab aid per annum. During 1991, the government received some \$900 in outright grants and extremely soft loans. More is bound to follow in the current year.

It is widely acknowledged that the Gulf crisis and the ensuing demographic movements in the area, together with the blockade on Iraq, generated certain parallel flows of foreign currencies to Jordan or through it during the last 22 months. Those flows have been strengthening Jordan's balance of payments and augmenting our foreign exchange reserves. The extent of this favourable impact is greater than what is suggested by published figures because an important part of these flows is unrecorded and can not consequently be reflected in official data.

Understandable, this financial "abundance" has created an

atmosphere of sanguinity within the ranks of political and economic leadership. Public finances are relaxed and Jordan is looking with hope to the future. If these favourable trends are to continue into 1993, in terms of foreign aid and capital inflows, there will be a very good reason for optimism.

But there should not be any reasons for overoptimism or a tendency on the part of economic managers to expect that somebody or something will do the trick for us all along. We are still talking about financial achievements; the real economic facts are something different.

In real economic terms, however, the Jordanian economy is still marred, let us remember, by what is termed the three cardinal economic plagues, namely unemployment, sluggish or low growth and inflation. The accumulation of foreign exchange does not solve any of them. These reserves are merely a poor sort of investment abroad which create jobs only for foreigners. Wiping out the budget deficit heralds only the setting of the stage for the start of work to tackle these problems.

The Jordanian economy has proved so far that it is resilient and strong enough to tolerate the very burdensome load of these vices. There is only one reasonable explanation for that:

Jordanians are living on their savings. It is from these savings that they finance the rises in the costs of living as their real incomes are stationary or increasing at a rate less than the rate of inflation. Unemployed labourers draw on the pennies that they saved for these rainy days; alternatively they are shielded by the extended family.

But the tolerance of the Jordanian economy is not limitless. The national savings are also exhaustible. Their basic and normal task is to finance investment not consumption otherwise the structure of the Jordanian economy will be seriously enfeebled.

One really hopes that the present optimism which overhangs the economic stage thanks to financial abundance will not blur our vision or tempt us to stay relaxed. There is a lot to be done. It is our impression that if things remain favourable during the next 15 months, the Jordanian economy will make it. We are still talking about the continuation of foreign aid and attraction of capital thanks to the ongoing process of payment liberalisation. If the financial prosperity is to be fruitful, it has to be backed by a matching success in the real economic world, such as investment, exports and import substitution.

Kuwait's wrong track

KUWAITI NEWSPAPERS' attacks on His Majesty King Hussein in particular and Jordan as a whole bear the hallmark of a government that cannot forgive anybody, be they brothers or friends, for calling the spade a spade during the Gulf crisis. At the root of the new wave of slander against Jordan is the continued and totally unjustified vindictiveness of the Kuwaiti leaders especially against those who paid with sweat and blood the price of building Kuwait.

Surely the darkness that permeated the minds of those who wrote and published defamatory remarks about Jordan cannot reach such low level as to deny the Jordanian military contributions during the earlier Iraqi-Kuwaiti conflict when the troops of the late Iraqi leader Abdul Karim Kassim had threatened the well-being and independence of Kuwait. Jordan then was in the forefront of those Arab states that rushed to rescue Kuwait from the Iraqi designs out of respect for Arab ideals and principles that no Arab state may attack another Arab state and occupy it by force no matter what the historical pretexts may have been.

As for the new Kuwait in the wake of the Gulf war, it is common knowledge that its human rights' record towards the Palestinians and Jordanians and others who actually played a pivotal role in constructing modern Kuwait was indeed a dismal one that tarnished the image of Arabs everywhere. How can the leaders of Kuwait explain and condone the way they had treated all the Arab and non-Arab communities which had made Kuwait their home for decades without ever attaining any degree of civil or political rights as if they were expendable commodities.

On the other hand, those Kuwaiti journalists who go as far as casting doubt and suspicion over the history of this country should very well know that Jordanians have been at the forefront of every effort to serve pan-Arabism and its noble goals. Jordanians paid with their blood to save Palestine and other Arab lands from the designs and aggression of others. The contemporary record of Jordan is matched only by the historical record of Sharif Hussein Ibn Ali who launched the Great Arab Revolt to liberate the homeland from occupation and colonialism.

Events did not happen always to our liking, as the Kuwaiti journalists themselves know. But the spirit of Jordan never faltered. It stayed on course unimpeded by the designs of foreign powers and the hatred or envy of rich brothers. It is this same spirit that cried out against the Gulf war and against the expulsion of thousands of Palestinians and Jordanians from Kuwait, and it is the same spirit that the Kuwaiti rulers and their mouthpieces are attacking so vigorously these days.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily commented on the four Arab ministers' meeting in Amman to discuss the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations and said that such meetings are of vital importance for solidarity among Arab states prior to the coming round of negotiations in Rome. The paper said that the four ministers have set the tone for yet more enlarged meetings among Arab ministers to discuss the situation in view of Israel's intransigence. Such meetings are of utmost importance if the Arabs are to unite their position vis-a-vis Israel's obstinacy and its rejection of U.N. resolutions and the international legitimacy, said the paper. It said that coordination among the Arab parties is bound to help unite the Arabs and enable them to better present their case to the world. Israel, said the paper, continues to reject any exchange of land for peace in the course of implementing U.N. resolutions and continues to reject any just peace with the Arabs. Furthermore, Israel rejects any bid to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 423, on withdrawal from Lebanon, and the four ministers' final statement was careful to mention these facts and to demand that the world community in general and the Security Council in particular take speedy steps to force Israel to comply with the requirements of peace, the paper added. The paper said that the meeting marked another milestone on the part of the Arab confrontation states to reestablish solidarity among the Arabs in order to ensure more support for their joint efforts in the peace process and in regaining Arab rights and lands.

A COLUMNIST in Sawt Al Shaab daily defended Jordan's position in the face of the onslaught launched through hostile campaigns against the Kingdom by Gulf states media. Salameh Ekour said that those undertaking the hostile campaigns are Arabs who stabbed their nation in the back and are seeking protection from the foreign nations and the colonial powers which are intent on looting Arab oil wealth. Calling the Gulf regimes dummies in the hand of the foreign nations, the writer said that they had unleashed their media to spread insults and curses left and right against all decent and honest people of the Arab Nation because these regimes are blinded by the fire of the burning oil and are blinded by arrogance. Perhaps these regimes are terrified of the democratic system that is blossoming in Jordan and threatening to affect other parts of the Arab World. Jordan is being attacked by these regimes simply because it stood firm in the face of any foreign intervention, calling for an Arab solution to the Kuwaiti question and because it rejected the idea of stationing foreign troops on Arab land, said the writer. Jordan, he added, has refused to go astray like the other Arabs who backed the colonialists and those who chose to stab their brothers in the back. In addition to the attacks, said the writer, the Kuwaitis decided to evict 300,000 Palestinians who had built the emirate from scratch over the past four decades. But, he said Jordan is ready to welcome all the Arabs and to give them shelter when fleeing such atrocities like those committed by some Arabs who fear democracy and justice.

Arab Americans active at all levels of political process

By Rosalind Mandine

WASHINGTON — Arab Americans are actively involved at all levels of the 1992 election campaigns, reflecting an all-out effort by the community to solidify its position in the U.S. political process.

Arab American leaders emphasize that the community should be a bi-partisan community by getting involved in both the Democratic and Republican parties.

"We need to have influence on both sides," James Zogby, the president of the Arab American Institute (AAI), said in a briefing on the elections June 3.

Mr. Zogby noted that an increasing number of local campaign coordinators for the candidates are Arab Americans, including those responsible for Governor Clinton's campaigns in Dallas, Texas, and in Jacksonville, Florida, and for President Bush's campaign in Dearborn, Flint and Detroit, Michigan.

Getting Arab Americans elected as delegates to local, state and national party conventions, which will ultimately nominate the presidential candidates, is a major goal for the community in

1992, he said.

AAI has focused on the research, training and political organization needed to support Arab Americans running for delegate slots and has town meetings in 11 cities throughout the United States to assist the community in this process.

According to AAI, approximately 350 Arab Americans have won delegate slots at the local and state levels, with concentrations in Texas, Iowa, California, Michigan, Florida and Virginia, and approximately 30 more Arab Americans have been elected to attend the national Republican and Democratic party conventions this summer.

These numbers "reflect in the institutionalization of Arab Americans into the process," Mr. Zogby said.

Another important venue for influence in the Democratic Republic parties is through the platform committees — where the parties' policies on domestic and foreign issues are debated and formulated. AAI officials have noted that Arab Americans have succeeded in getting the community's voice heard on issues of concern.

Arab Americans are seeking

"to shape the debate" on such issues of concern as the U.S. Middle East policy, Mr. Zogby said.

According to AAI, Democratic and Republican party platform resolutions on the Middle East have been passed at the local level in Iowa, Texas, Washington and Maine. These resolutions, which call for a negotiated peace settlement based on land for peace, will also be considered in the state conventions of these four states, as well as in Minnesota, South Dakota, Virginia and Michigan.

On a national level, Arab American leaders have presented their communities' views on domestic and foreign policy issues to the national parties. James Zogby addressed the Democratic Platform Committee in May and George Salem, co-founder of AAI, spoke to the Republican Platform Committee in early June.

Mr. Zogby noted that Arab Americans are "involved state-by-state with (Democratic) party leadership to come up with compromise language" on the Middle East for the platform. The AAI has submitted platform planks to the Democratic National Con-

vention on immigrant rights, ethnic discrimination, the Middle East peace process, foreign policy, and Lebanon.

Mr. Salem said that the Republicans' platform plank on the Middle East will be prepared by Secretary of State James Baker.

Democratic and Republican Party leaders have underscored the importance of Arab Americans getting involved in the process and have noted that their parties are open to this involvement.

During AAI's leadership conference in January, the chairman of the Democratic National Committee, Ron Brown, and the chair of the National Republican Congressional Committee, E. Spencer Abraham, spoke about Arab Americans in the political process.

The mere presence of the leaders from the two major political parties at the AAI conference was a milestone for Arab American involvement in the political process, Mr. Zogby said.

"We're part of the debate and respected as part of the party. Years ago no one in the party would meet with us. It is a new period for us," he said.

Mr. Brown underscored that as

chairman of the Democratic National Committee he has "attempted to reach out to the Arab American community" and he called on the community to "get organized and get involved."

"If you don't participate you don't have a right to complain ... Get involved at all political levels," he said.

Mr. Abraham, who is of Lebanese ancestry, stressed that "the door in the Republican Party is open as wide as it can conceivably be" to the involvement of Arab Americans at all levels of the campaign. He noted that the Republican Party is organizing an Arab American committee for the Bush-Quayle campaign.

Mr. Abraham encouraged Arab Americans to run for political office and get involved in raising funds and managing campaigns.

According to AAI, 54 Arab American candidates are running for local, state and national offices in the 1992 elections.

As an example to the Arab American community growing in strength and organization, Mr. Zogby pointed to Representative Mary Rose Oakar's recent primary election victory as the Demo-

cratic candidate from her district in Ohio. In the wake of her involvement in the check-bouncing scandal in the House of Representatives, Mr. Zogby noted, Ms. Oakar "was threatened for the first time with a close race."

However, Ms. Oakar fought for her position by stressing her record in the Congress and the Arab American community "rallied behind her," he said.

AAI registered thousands of Arab American voters and the Arab American community in Ohio "raised a lot of money" for her campaign, Mr. Zogby said.

But even when Arab American candidates lose, the community wins. Mr. Zogby pointed out that while the five Arab American candidates in California lost their primary elections, they represented a record number of candidates for the community in that state. In addition, the five candidates all got over 10,000 votes in their individual races, and three of them lost by only 1,000 to 2,500 votes, he said.

These numbers demonstrate "an Arab American community that is moving toward political empowerment," Mr. Zogby stressed — United States Information Agency (USIA).

Fate of EC union plans in hands of Irish voters

By Simon Alterman
Reuters

DUBLIN — The fate of the European Community will be in the hands of the Irish people when they vote in a referendum on the Maastricht Treaty next week.

Following the shock rejection of the treaty by Danish voters last week, a "no" victory in Ireland on June 18 would destroy plans of the other 11 EC states to press ahead with ratification in the hope the Danes will change their minds.

"Another rejection will kill the

"Another rejection will kill the treaty stone dead. It's impossible to imagine the 10 being able to carry on. It really will be back to the drawing board. In normal circumstances, a resounding 'yes' to the political and monetary union treaty would be a foregone conclusion."

treaty stone dead," an EC official said. "It's impossible to imagine the 10 being able to carry on. It really will be back to the drawing board."

In normal circumstances, a resounding "yes" to the political and monetary union treaty would be a foregone conclusion.

Two previous referendums produced majorities of 83 per cent in 1972 to take Ireland into the community and 69.9 per cent in 1987 to approve the Single European Act, the EC's last major constitutional overhaul.

Unlike Denmark and Britain, which joined the EC at the same time, Ireland has no strong, long-standing current of anti-community feeling.

A glance at the figures helps to explain why.

Transfers from Brussels to

Dublin in agricultural subsidies and development aid account for seven to eight per cent of Ireland's gross domestic product, the value of all goods and services it produces.

The government of Prime Minister Albert Reynolds has been trumpeting the figure of six billion pounds (\$10 billion) which Ireland would receive from the proposed doubling of aid to the poorest EC members in a five-year budget plan.

Finance Minister Bertie Ahern said Irish interest rates would be much lower if the single currency Maastricht foresees by 1999 were already in place.

"If we had a European central bank now, our rates would be 2.5 per cent lower. That's why I'm pro-Maastricht," he told visiting reporters last week.

That is because for now, Ireland and most other EC countries have to keep their rates above Germany's, whose currency anchors the European monetary system. And German rates are high because of the inflationary impact of unification spending.

Opponents of the treaty form an unlikely coalition of traditional anti-Europeans, who fear Irish neutrality in a political union and believe in economic nationalism, and activists at both extremes of the abortion debate.

Bewilderingly, the two latter groups argue opposite cases — that EC law will undermine the country's ban on abortion or that the treaty will cement that ban in place.

The latest opinion poll gave the government a majority of about 60 per cent in favour of ratification — identical to forecasts at a

similar stage of the Danish campaign.

Mr. Reynolds, pointing to Ireland's tradition of links to Europe, is confident that the Danish result will jolt the Irish into a strong "yes" vote.

"We're pro-European from 30 years back. We know where our best future lies," he said.

But three possible threats to a "yes" vote loom.

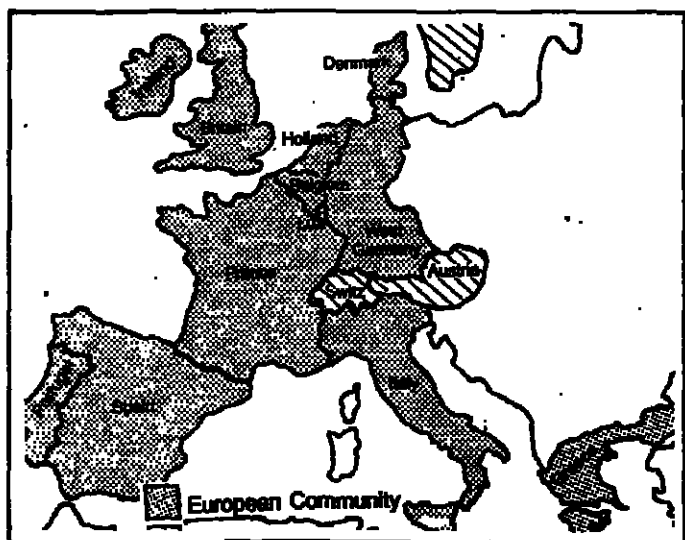
First, the abortion issue, which remains explosive despite his promise to hold a separate referendum later this year.

Indicating his concern, Mr. Reynolds argued both that Maastricht and abortion must be kept apart, and that women should know that a "yes" vote on June 18 would be interpreted by the government as confirming the right of women to travel abroad for abortions.

The second threat is the "Ross Perot" factor, named after the maverick U.S. presidential candidate who has tapped a vein of disaffection. Like Mr. Perot fans and Danish voters, the Irish may vote "no" to shock a largely pro-Maastricht political establishment.

Thirdly, the Danish vote may have undermined Mr. Reynolds' central campaign theme — that poor Ireland cannot afford to be marginalised in the EC by rejecting the treaty.

Had Denmark voted "yes", that case might have frightened Irish waverers into following suit. But now, though a "no" victory would damage Ireland's image, doubters can be sure that by voting down the treaty they can bury it for good.



Islamic groups reject West, embrace free market

By John West
Reuters

CAIRO — Iran has privatised a string of state sector companies and set up a booming stock exchange.

Sudan's radical Islamic government recently devalued its currency by 300 per cent and slashed state subsidies on foodstuffs to try to control its budget deficit.

Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) made overtures to Western businessmen before the government prevented it from winning elections in January.

Across the Muslim world, fundamentalists are locked in battle against what they say are imported western values. But when it comes to economics, they may find themselves on the same side as the West.

"No state can progress by central planning," said Youssef Al Gammal, a professor of Islamic economics speaking on behalf of Egypt's influential Muslim Brothers. "This kills the individual and it kills religion."

Muslim scholars say their religion has always encouraged free trade tempered by social justice. Islam first appeared in the trading city of Mecca and the Prophet Muhammad himself was a successful merchant.

The Koran, the Islamic scripture, states: "O ye who believe, do not waste your money vainly between yourselves, but let there be trade amongst you with mutual goodwill."

Many governments in the Arab World, by contrast, control their countries' economies centrally in one way or another.

Some, for instance in Algeria and Egypt, have started reform programmes. But they have not yet dismantled the vast, inefficient public sectors inherited from decades of Socialism and secular nationalism.

Even Gulf Arab states, which in theory espouse the free market, still keep a tight grip on the oil-related revenues which dominate their economies.

Islamic fundamentalists, in line with most Muslim authorities, say that interest in the Western sense is banned. Many Islamic banks have sprung up in recent years to handle savings and loans in other ways.

On the other hand, the only tax mentioned in basic Islamic texts is "zakat", a 2.5 per cent income tax to be distributed among the poor.

Some fundamentalist groups in the 1970s and 1980s, such as the Mujahideen Khalq (holy war-

riors of the people) in Iran, drew their inspiration from Islamic beliefs about social justice and espoused Socialist-style economics.

But the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union since 1989 has discredited "Islamic socialism" as much as its secular counterpart and the trend in doctrine is now firmly the other way, towards the free market.

Islamic movements in Iran, Sudan and Pakistan have been backed by rich businessmen and professional classes who see the struggle against the West largely in cultural terms.

"You can understand why in Iran the bazaar (merchants) backed the revolution," said Fehmi Hawwadi, an Egyptian commentator on Islamic movements. "Many of them had been excluded by corruption under the shah."

Even if Islamic governments came to power believing in the ideology of the free market, there would still be no shortage of material for economic disputes with the West.

Leaders of Algeria's FIS said they would not honour debts incurred by the current government.

Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood spokesman Mr. Gammal said Islam allowed companies which explored for and produced oil to earn profits on their investment but the current balance of trade between the West and the Third World was unjust.

"Why are raw materials getting cheaper every year and finished goods more expensive?" he asked. "Who produces which?"

In the long run, he said, the economic status quo could not be sustained as an ever poorer South would be unable to buy the North's goods, setting off a world economic crisis.

"The aim is freedom in Islam, but with justice... in the West, your aim is freedom but justice is sleeping."

LETTERS

Legitimate aspirations

To the Editor:

In regard to Randa Habib's article Jordan Times, May 30, titled "Ruling and Overruling" and Imad Awadallah Hussein's letter to the editor (Jordan Times, June 7), I would only like to add that any political party is defined as an organisation whose purpose is to gain legitimate control of the government.

Political parties are a vital element of democracy because they link the voter to the government, define policy alternatives and transmit public opinion from the citizens level to the level of leadership. Hence, these are the goals of all political parties, all over the world, and these ambitions are not particularly inherent in any specific party.

E. Yaghi,
Amman

(The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and, preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.)

From Mecca to Jerusalem Sharif Hussein led the Great Arab Revolt

Sharif donated 25,000 gold coins for Al Aqsa



Sharif Hussein Bin Ali while in exile in Cyprus in 1929.

Sharif Hussein Bin Ali was born in Istanbul in 1856. He declared the revolt against the Ottoman Empire on the 9th of Shaban 1334 A.H. (June 10, 1916). He visited Amman in 1924 and was proclaimed Caliph. As a result of his well-known dispute with the British over the Palestinian cause, Britain sent him an ultimatum to leave Agaba where he was staying after abdicating the throne of the Hijaz in favour of his eldest son, King Ali Ibn Hussein.

Two destroyers to enforce the ultimatum and he left on board one of them for Cyprus on June 17, 1925. He returned to Amman from his exile very ill in 1931 and died in the same year.

Sharif Hussein Bin Ali had four sons: Ali, Abdullah, Feisal and Zaid. Three of them became kings: Ali, King of the Hijaz, Abdullah, King of Jordan and Feisal, King of Syria, then Iraq. Each played an important role in making the Arab Revolt a success.

When Hussein Bin Ali started the Arab Revolt, the

British promised him independence for all the Arab countries, not excluding Palestine (Treaty of Hussein/McMahon). He and his sons fulfilled their side of the agreement until the allies were victorious over their opponents. However, the British government issued the Balfour Declaration, giving a homeland to the Jews in Palestine. As a result of that, when Britain asked him to sign a treaty granting Britain a special status in Palestine, he declared:

"The British government has offered me a treaty, the conditions of which do not tally with promises they have given me regarding independence. I have therefore introduced some clauses which emphasize the total independence of Palestine and the Palestinian people's right to direct control and to choose their own government. I declare the Balfour Declaration to be null and I confirm that if the British government does not accept these alterations, I will not sign this treaty."

Sharif Hussein Bin Ali was a great nationalist and patriot

and paid the price for his principles as shown by his exile.

Among his achievements was that he supported the renovation of Al Aqsa Mosque. In 1925 a delegation headed by the late Al Haj Said Al Shawwa (a member of the Higher Islamic Council of Palestine) and Sheikh Mohammad Tufaha Al Hussein, the mufti of Nablus, asked for his help. He gave 25,000 dinars of pure gold for this purpose. The donation is registered in the files of the Higher Islamic Council of Palestine as taking place during the time of Al Haj Amin Al Hussein.

After his death, official and unofficial delegations from all over the Islamic and Arab World came to attend his funeral. This event inspired the feelings of poets and authors to write about his qualities.

The above is an extract from the book: *Amman Yesterday and Today* by Arslan Ramadan Bakig.



The funeral of Sharif Hussein Bin Ali in Amman in 1931.



The funeral procession of Sharif Hussein Bin Ali in front of the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem before his burial in the sacred sanctuary of Omar.

King gives personal funds for holy places

(Continued from page 1)

Yoshua in the Balqa region in central Jordan as well as the grand mosque of Irbid in the north.

"This good land visited by the Prophet and his companions who fell as martyrs while upholding the standards of faith will always remain faithful to the vanguards of Islam and will serve as a great witness to their glorious feats," the King said.

King Hussein recalled that in 1984 he had instructed the government to set up a special committee to take charge of restoring the tombs and shrines of the companions of the Prophet and renowned martyrs of Islam buried in Jordan, and to build mosques on their tombs. He said that he also allocated his own annual salary for this noble project.

King Hussein said that he was confident that men and women of Jordan are also keen on contributing towards this noble cause.

He said that numerous Jordanians had contributed and still contribute generously towards building educational institutions, places of worship and clinics, and they are to be thanked for their noble act.

In reply, the prime minister said that the King's directives "reflected the Hashemite family's keenness on safeguarding the shrines of these great men."

The prime minister recalled the King's earlier decision to allocate funds for the restoration of the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem as his true commitment to the principle of safeguarding the holy places.

Sharif Zeid said that he did not doubt that the Jordanian people will follow in the footsteps of their leader and will respond promptly to the call for contributing towards the noble cause.

The prime minister proposed the formation of a royal commission to take charge of the implementation of the project.

Egyptian writer shot dead in Cairo

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Fodah died from massive internal injuries and bleeding. Ahmad was in stable condition from wounds in the thigh and back. Mr. Fodah's friend, Wahid Raafat, was released from a hospital after treatment for minor injuries.

The last major attack attributed to them was Oct. 12, 1990, an ambush on a downtown Cairo street in which motorcyclists killed Parliament Speaker Rifaat Al Mahjoub and five others.

Hala Mustafa, a writer and political analyst at the Al Ahram Centre for Strategic Studies, said the attack on Mr. Fodah was especially worrying.

"This is a dangerous precedent. It means the violence... was gone beyond the regime and the politicians," Ms. Mustafa said. "The charge now is secularism. They condemn anyone who thinks differently from them."

Mr. Fodah was loudly critical of Islamic extremism as practiced by the Jamaat Islamiya (Islamic Groups). In his writings, he called them Jamaat Zalamiya (groups of darkness).

He wrote weekly sarcastic essays every week in the government magazine October that always took potshots at the Islamic groups. He was a professor of agricultural economy and authored five books about politics, secularism and Islamic extremism.

His last article, published on Sunday, said the Tunisian government had videotaped fundamentalist leaders having sex with beautiful women on prayer rugs.

"The forces of darkness are obsessed with sex," he wrote ridiculing a militant group in Assiut, southern Egypt, for banning aubergines and marrows because of supposed sexual connotations.

PLO hopes France will try killers

(Continued from page 1)

poring the Labour Party's strong challenge to Mr. Shamir's Likud government.

Meir Kahane founded the radical Jewish Defence League; he was killed in New York City in 1990.

Three PLO leaders have been slain over the past four years.

Mr. Bseiso, who reported directly to Mr. Arafat, had run the PLO's day-to-day security affairs since security chief Salah Khalaf was assassinated by a turncoat bodyguard in January

1991. Mr. Bseiso, married with three young children, was born in 1948 in Gaza. His family fled months later because of the Arab-Israeli war.

Israeli experts and newspapers offered no firm information about who assassinated Mr. Bseiso, but speculated about Israeli in-

telligence or Palestinian hard-liners.

They scoffed at the claims of responsibility made by two Jewish extremist groups.

"They are jokers," Ariel Merari, a terrorism expert at Tel Aviv University said of the anonymous telephoned claim. He said they lacked the knowhow to carry out Monday's slaying.

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A copy of a historic document, the text of a letter from the Sharif of Mecca, King Hussein Ben Ali, written in 1917. He directs Prince Faisal and Prince Abdul Aziz Al Jurba to protect members of the Armenian community and to allow them to take up residence as being free non-Muslim citizens. This was after they had suffered the massacre of 1915. The document was published in the Lebanese journal "Al Shira" number 109, Monday 16 April 1984.

Save water... every drop counts!

هلنا من اصل

Sweden and France roll out the super-guns

STOCKHOLM (R) — Hosts Sweden and group one favorites France will each roll out their own super-gun when they face each other in the opening match of the European Soccer championship today.

Swedish hopes of glory rest squarely on the strike power of young forward Tomas Brodin, nicknamed "Baby Bomber," while France rely as ever on their unique smart weapon, European player of the year Jean-Pierre Papin.

In a match which looks likely to be dominated by well entrenched defenses, the ability of Brodin and Papin to exploit the slightest chink in the opposition's armour could be decisive.

Home coach Tommy Svensson believes his team, boosted by the intimidating roar of 28,000 fans in Stockholm's tiny Rasunda Stadium, could carry Sweden to a first taste of success since reaching the 1958 World Cup final, also played on home soil. Sweden flopped badly in the

1990 World Cup in Italy, losing all three group games, but new coach Svensson has since rejuvenated the team and tightened up at the back.

The Sweden have conceded just two goals in their last six warm-up matches. "On top form, we are capable of beating anybody," Svensson said.

Brodin, who despite his team's indifferent showing in Italy, was showered with praise for his speed, nose for goal and incisive shot, has been in good form this

season, helping Parma to lift the Italian Cup with a victory over Juventus in the final.

scorer of nine goals in 16 matches for his country, Brodin and his midfield suppliers Anders Limpar of Arsenal and Jonas Thern of Benfica will be the men Platini will warn his side about.

Svensson may not dare breathe the name of Papin, who has struck 13 goals in his 10 last games for France, for fear of panicking his inexperienced central defence of Jan Eriksson and

Patrik Andersson.

The AC Milan-bound striker showed he has overcome an ankle injury when he netted against the Dutch in a friendly last Friday.

After earning themselves the unwelcome tag of title favourites with a record eight wins out of eight in the qualifiers, France have marking time since and are without a win in four friendlies this year.

Platini may be alarmed by a lack of creativity in midfield,

once the great strength of the national side, and the first warning of holes appearing in defence.

If he is, he does not show it. "There are two ways of approaching this match," he said. "One is to say, oh no, this is the opening match of the European Championship and to feel under pressure."

"The second is to think, oh yes, it's great to be here in front of millions of television viewers. It's good for our image. The second is my approach."

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Greeks still bitter at losing next Olympics

ATHENS (R) — The Olympic flame was ceremonially handed over in Athens Monday — but not without a sharp reminder from Greek Olympic chief Lamis Nikolaou his country was still bitter at losing the bid to stage the next games.

At one stage, Greece had been favourite to host the 1996 Olympics, the 100th anniversary of the modern games, but lost out to Atlanta, Georgia.

"I consider it my duty to publicly express this great bitterness felt by the Greeks, who are remembered every four years only because of the Olympic flame," Nikolaou said.

"But we are not resentful," he added. "We wish happiness and success to the athletes of the world."

The flame was handed over to Barcelona Olympics officials at a ceremony in Athens' Marble Stadium at the start of a land and sea journey to Barcelona for the games which start July 25.

The flame, enclosed in a brass miner's lamp, will sail the Spanish navy frigate Cataluna for the ancient Greek port of Empuries, north of Barcelona.

About 50,000 spectators cheered the captain of Greece's national basketball team, Panayotis Yankakis, as he carried the torch into the floodlit stadium.

"The moment has come to hand over the flame, which symbolises the brotherhood and reconciliation of peoples," said Nikolaou, president of the Greek Olympic Committee, before

giving the torch to Pasquale Maragall, mayor of Barcelona.

Maragall drew cheers from the crowd by beginning his speech in Greek. He also spoke in French, to honour the founder of the modern games, French Baron Pierre de Coubertin, Spanish and Catalan.

"We thank those trusted us to safeguard the flame's journey," Maragall said. "We will guard it vigilantly."

The Marble Stadium, built in 330 B.C. and restored for the first Greek competitions after the flame was driven to the frigate, docked at the port of Piraeus.

The flame, lit with sun's rays Friday, was carried by 367 runners over 267 kilometres to Athens from ancient Olympia, where the games began in 776 B.C. They were abolished in 394 A.D. by Byzantine Emperor Theodosius.

In ancient Greece, runners would announce the start of the Olympics throughout the land and feuding cities would drop their weapons in sacred truce to participate in the games.

About 9,000 people, including International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch, are expected to carry the flame this year, on foot, bicycle and boat.

It will travel another 5,950 kilometres through 652 towns in Spain before it reaches the Olympic stadium, where it will burn three metres high in its mountain cauldron for the duration of the summer Olympics.

Courier, Seles turn attention to Wimbledon

PARIS (R) — Jim Courier and Monica Seles have barely had time to digest their French Open victories before turning their thoughts to Wimbledon.

The two-week interval between the two Grand Slam events is a source of dismay to many players who must adjust their game from the slow clay of Paris to the fast grass of London.

This year, the difficulties of transition are compounded by the Barcelona Olympics — only three weeks after Wimbledon — where the tennis players will have to go back to clay.

Some players are pressing for Wimbledon to be moved back a week in future — a suggestion that is not popular with organizers of the grass-court event.

"I wish there was a bigger gap," said Courier, who was flying home to Florida after his win in the final here to seek out a grass court to practise on.

Winning at Roland Garros almost precludes winning Wim-

bledon.

In the last 30 years only two men and five women have achieved the feat in the same year, the last being German Steffi Graf in 1988, the year she achieved the Grand Slam.

The phenomenal Bjorn Borg won both events three years running, from 1978 to 1980, but for Courier and Seles, neither of them at their happiest on grass, the task looks a lot harder.

Courier's biggest rivals on the grass, defending Wimbledon champion Michael Stich of Germany and former winner Stefan Edberg of Sweden, will probably now see their third-round exits in Paris as an advantage, giving them extra time to readjust to their favourite surface.

German Boris Becker, three times champion at Wimbledon, decided not to play Roland Garros because of injury and is already in grass mode again.

Like Edberg, he is due to play the Queen's Club grass tournament in London this week.

GOVERN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI
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PENNY WISE, POUND FOOLISH

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A K 9 3
♥ J 7
♦ J 8 6 5
♣ 9 7 3

WEST
♠ 7 5 4
♥ 9 8 3
♦ Q 10 7 3
♣ K J 10

EAST
♠ 10 8 6 2
♥ K Q 10 6
♦ 4
♣ 6 5 4 2

SOUTH
♠ Q J
♥ A 5 4 2
♦ A K 9 2
♣ A Q 8

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♠
Can a trick be won too cheaply? Judge for yourselves.

The find that had developed at the club between Vladimir Tinkov, the Russian emigre noted for his rapid if inaccurate play, and Trump Coup Tommy, who played well only when declaring a hand with an awful trump break, grew more intense with time and this hand did little to ease the animosity. The Russian and his partner arrived at three no trump via an irrepressible auction — Vladimir's rebid showed a balanced hand of 19-20 points and

North had no interest beyond game. Tommy West, made the one lead that no sane defender would have found — a low diamond. Our choice would have been the nine of hearts. Dummy's five fetched the four from East, and declarer promptly placed the two thirdeens. Now Vladimir had a situation he could boast about forever — he had won a trick consisting of the two, three, four and five of a suit to tie a world record.

A diamond to the king revealed the fact the suit was going to produce only three tricks. Declarer could count nine tricks, but there was no entry to dummy to collect the spades. So declarer cashed the queen of spades, overtook the jack and continued with the ace, in the hope of dropping the ten. When that did not happen declarer tried the club finesse. West won and exited with a heart, and declarer had to be satisfied with eight tricks.

As happens so often, careless play to the first trick had cost declarer the contract. Since West surely had not led a singleton diamond, South could have made sure of an entry to dummy by winning that trick with the king of diamonds. After cashing the queen and jack of spades, declarer can get to dummy by continuing with ace of diamonds and another. That way, South would score four spade tricks, three diamonds and the ace in the rounded suits.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JUNE 10, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Study possible hobbies and recreational interests you from a different point of view. Some of these interests could lead you in the direction of more important business matters.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your communications that have been put off can now be sensibly handled before you delve into new avenues of expressions by which you can forge ahead.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) There are some practical matters that have been left undone that require your patient applications early, then you can arrange better systems.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You have a day to consider all aspects of your personal position and after eliminating the things you do not want start replacing them with the desirable.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have some chores you can get rid of early for then you are in a position to make good progress towards building a new confidential course of action.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) An unfulfilled wish can now be more to operate as you wish after which you can make up your mind the various aims that will activate your enthusiasm.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Consider well your position in the community where you live and

do what you can to improve your image there even though it means some tasks you do not especially like.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A day when you soon clearly how some condition which has not been in your life before this will be able to enhance your growth and development soon.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You now have a business day at which you can get much of value done by carrying through with projects already begun and also by looking into advanced ones.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) An outside activity needs to be completed before you will be able to go on to some new public interest that will be very good for you.

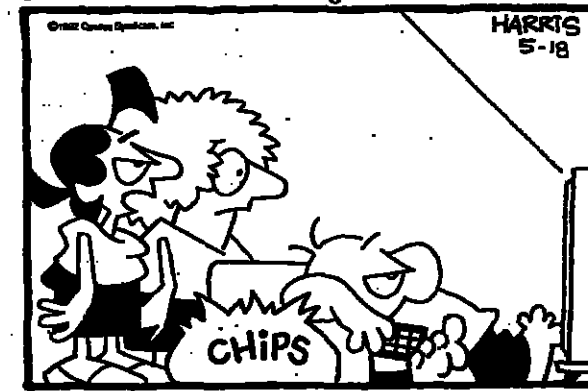
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Your mind works on organising practical ideas but so day consider the motivations behind the actions of others to get fullest right results.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Much conversation with those who like the same recreations as yourself can bring to light what you and they need to do more thoroughly enjoy yourselves.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Even while in the outside world you should spend sometime today considering what you can do to improve conditions at your residence and with your family.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MAIDT

NOOZE

BUHSIL

LUNFIX



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "O O O O"

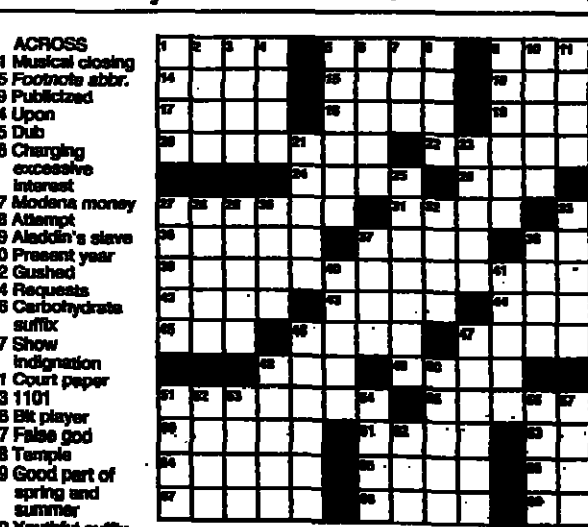
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ACRID BRIBE INTENT FERVOR

Answer: Although political machines are usually "well-oiled," they frequently develop this

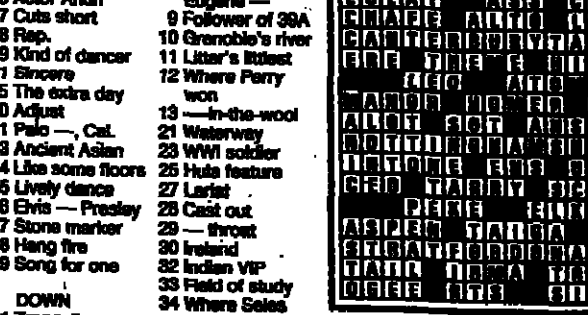
FRICITION

THE Daily Crossword by Valentine Barnes



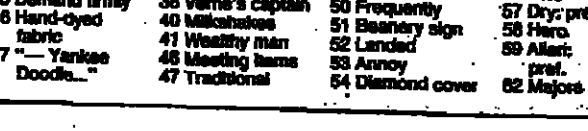
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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



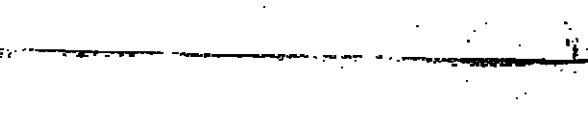
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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1992
JORDAN TIMES
Page 1
The Jordanian newspaper's masthead and publication details.

Economy

Financial Markets

In co-operation with
Chiro Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 8/6/1992	Tokyo Close 9/6/1992
British Pound	1.8250	1.8250
Deutsche Mark	1.5865	1.5872
Swiss Franc	1.4489	1.4510
French Franc	5.3455	5.3300
Japanese Yen	127.28	127.23
European Currency Unit	1.2905	1.2903

Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	3.87	3.87	4.06	4.56
British Pound	9.75	9.75	9.87	9.87
Deutsche Mark	9.68	9.68	9.68	9.56
Swiss Franc	9.25	9.25	8.87	8.75
French Franc	10.00	10.00	9.93	9.87
Japanese Yen	4.62	4.62	4.50	4.50
European Currency Unit	10.31	10.31	10.31	10.25

Gold Prices

Unit	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar
Gold	337.95	6.50
Silver	4.06	.090

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6780	0.6780
British Pound	1.2885	1.2885
Deutsche Mark	0.4259	0.4260
Swiss Franc	0.4661	0.4661
French Franc	0.1264	0.1270
Japanese Yen	0.5312	0.5339
Dutch Guilder	0.5781	0.5800
Swedish Krona	0.1179	0.1185
Italian Lira	0.0562	0.0565
Belgian Franc	0.02064	0.02074

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
British Pound	1.7800	1.7700
Deutsche Mark	0.03655	0.03600
Swiss Franc	0.1780	0.1818
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.1891	0.1890
Qatari Riyal	0.2100	0.2250
Egyptian Pound	1.7000	1.7000
Omani Riyal	0.1891	0.1890
UAE Dirham	0.3900	0.3700
Greek Drachma	1.4875	1.4875

CAR Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	8.6.1992 Close	7.6.1992 Close
All-Share	143.01	142.25
Banking Sector	104.72	104.65
Insurance Sector	149.50	150.08
Industry Sector	136.81	135.21
Services Sector	181.64	178.57

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.8397/407	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1929/3492	Canadian dollar
	1.5825/35	Deutschemarks
	1.7815/25	Dutch guilders
	1.4475/85	Swiss francs
	32.54/58	Belgian francs
	5.3375/425	French francs
	1196/1198	Italian lire
	126.90/7.09	Japanese yen
	5.7210/60	Swedish crowns
	6.1895/945	Norwegian crowns
	6.1210/60	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	337.60/338.10	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

PARIS — The market was depressed by falls on Wall Street and a late sell-off in shares of electrical engineering company Schneider. The CAC-40 index lost 19.35 points to close at 1,962.23.

LONDON — The FTSE 100 closed down 10.4 points at 2,635.4 after coming off sharply in late business as the Dow Jones fell and market makers cut prices to tempt buyers.

NEW YORK — Investors took profits ahead of inflation data due later this week amid concern over rising commodities prices. The Dow was down 23.58 at 3,380.55 at 1620 GMT.

TOKYO — Stocks ended up in thin trade after three days of losses. Investors stayed sidelined ahead of Friday's futures settlement and the Bank of Japan's quarterly economy survey. The Nikkei average was up 189.98 to 17,845.04.

SYDNEY — Stocks closed virtually unchanged in quiet trade following the long weekend. The all ordinaries index closed 0.1 point higher at 1674.5.

HONG KONG — Share prices ended easier but U.S. institutional buying and bargain-hunting pared early losses. The Hang Seng index closed down 38.56 points to 5,940.19.

SINGAPORE — Prices slipped in thin, dull trading. Shipping firm Hai Sun Hup and beverage firm Yeo Hiap drew attention. The SSI fell 8.47 to 1,492.11.

Tokyo to Washington: 'The truth hurts'

TOKYO (R) — The truth hurts. That was the message from Tokyo to Washington Tuesday after news that American businessmen were unhappy with Japanese allegations that the United States is the world's most unfair trader.

"The report simply stated the facts as they are," Japan's Minister of International Trade and Industry (MITI) Kozo Watanabe told reporters.

"For America to be told the truth is probably not pleasant," he added.

The report, prepared by a MITI advisory panel and released Monday, surveyed Japan's 10 major trading partners for 10 unfair trade practices which it said violated international rules such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The United States, the study concluded, violated international trade rules in nine of the 10 categories examined, while the European Community broke the rules with six unfair trade practices.

South Korea, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia were also cited for restricting imports from foreign countries.

But the United States was re-

luctant to be painted as the world's only trading villain. "People who live in glass houses should be careful about their stones," White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said.

Among the report's stated goals was the desire to stimulate mutual efforts toward solving trade problems based on the common awareness that "all are sinners."

The panel also said it hoped the study would spark a useful debate as to what constitutes "unfair trade practices" by basing its definitions on international rules.

Panel members and officials were hardly surprised by America's angry response. The report comes at a time when Japan is already under fire for a huge and growing trade surplus.

"To some extent we expected an emotional reaction," said one MITI official, adding: "But perhaps also we didn't fully get our point across."

"The purpose was not to single out and criticize any one country as a villain but to present information useful to solving the trade problems."

Japanese frustration at always being singled out as the worst of the world's unfair traders also

IMF head calls for defence spending cuts

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Michel Camdessus called Monday for big cuts in "unproductive" defence spending, asked rich nations to give more to the Third World and denied that IMF policies had led to environmental destruction.

In a speech to the U.N. Earth Summit that would have been scarcely imaginable a few years ago, Mr. Camdessus said pure capitalism was not enough to help the Third World's poor and also called on industrial nations to rein in consumption to save the environment.

"I must stress the need for an increase in official development assistance," Mr. Camdessus told delegates.

"For years, we have heard that the pressing needs for defence... were an obstacle. Is it not time, at last, to take advantage of the reduction in global tensions and to rechannel resources to more productive and useful uses?" he asked.

Mr. Camdessus said that repairing past environmental damage and switching to greener forms of economic growth in the future would cost huge sums of money.

These could only be found if rich nations curbed spending, boosted savings and shared more with the Third World.

"The problem of global savings is not so much one of scarcity as of misuse," he said. "Non-productive expenditures are only too abundant in the world."

"Suffice it to cite military expenditure which have been left virtually unchanged despite the prospects opened up by the end of the cold war," he added.

In remarks to reporters after the speech, Mr. Camdessus praised the idea of taxing fossil fuels more heavily to cut environmental pollution and encourage conservation.

"These kinds of suggestions make a lot of sense," he said.

But the IMF chief responded sharply to a reporter's suggestion that his organisation's policies had led to the over-exploitation of natural resources to pay debts and ruined the environment in the process.

"It is not the programmes of the IMF that created environmental catastrophe," he said. "It is poorly managed macro-economic policies."

Mr. Camdessus said the IMF was now encouraging member states to adjust their tax, subsidy, trade and pricing policies along environmentally sound lines. But he also emphasised the human element.

Yeltsin backtracks on freeing oil prices

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has said energy prices would not be freed before the end of the year. TASS quoted him as telling reporters in the town of Nizhny-Tagil at the end of a trip to visit his sick mother.

An acute cash shortage followed the first stage of reform in January — ending state control over the price of most consumer goods.

Inflation was 740 per cent on official estimates in the first four months of the year, wages have spiralled upwards and overworked money printing presses cannot keep up with the country's demand for rouble notes.

Workers in many industries have gone months without pay and only personal pleas by Mr. Yeltsin have averted widespread strikes in the vital energy sector.

The popularity of Mr. Yeltsin's government — which under First Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar has charted and overseen changes that have led to acute hardship for millions of Russians — has plunged in recent months.

Last week Mr. Yeltsin sparked fears that he was retreating from reform when he named as cabinet members three leading industrial

officials from the Soviet era.

He said the appointments were intended to balance his cabinet, adding a much-needed dose of hands-on industrial experience to the theoretical know-how of the Gaidar team, mostly Western-trained economists in their 30s.

Mr. Yeltsin said the pair of 1992 "had to be survived."

"I know there are some people who would willingly sign orders for my departure," he said. "But I will not give up my job so easily. I will not surrender. I will take what I have begun right to the end."

President Yeltsin last week signed a series of decrees intended to boost gas production in Russia and attract foreign investment to build new oil refineries.

ITAR-TASS news agency said the state Gasprom Company had been authorised to seek foreign credits worth up to \$8.7 billion from 1992 to 1998. It would use hard currency earnings through gas exports to cover servicing and repayment of the debt.

Money would be channelled into modernisation of plants producing motor fuel, lubricating oil and other petrochemical products now in ever decreasing supply.

Oil refineries would be issued with quotas for export to cover costs of modernisation.

But a separate decree on gas supplies during next winter was issued to cover domestic industry and homes. It said gas supplies to industry would be cut by about 10 per cent over plan in the period June-October, because of a fall in general industrial production levels.

The Russian oil and gas industries are in urgent need of investment. Pipes leak, extraction equipment is outmoded and specialists are leaving in large numbers because of low pay and poor conditions in some of the most remote areas of Russia.

Mr. Yeltsin recently sacked his reforming energy minister Vladimir Lopukhin as part of a reshuffle that has brought a large number of more conservative ministers into his government.

The new energy minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, was previously chairman of Gasprom.

The former Soviet Union extracted 810.5 billion cubic metres of gas in 1991, or 40 per cent of world gas output.

Russia's share was 642.9 billion cubic metres, up slightly from 1990. But the dramatic rises in output that marked the 1980s now appear beyond the industry.

Foreign physicians find hard times in Australia

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Only about a quarter of foreign-trained doctors who have moved to Australia in recent years are working in their chosen profession, according to a government study released Tuesday.

In fact, the Bureau of Immigration Research said only 111 of the 206 doctors it studied had found any kind of work since they arrived between 1977 and 1990.

It said 57 were working as doctors, although only 32 had passed local medical exams set by the Australian Medical Council. Others had jobs that ranged from medical technician to Baker's assistant and claimed they had been misinformed about their employment prospects.

"Many of the doctors... reported significant financial difficulties, problems with the English language, racial prejudice and problems in their encounters with Australian-trained doctors and members of their own cultural groups," the study found.

It urged greater emphasis be placed on the problems — such as stress, depression and feelings of isolation — facing overseas-trained doctors.

Overseas-trained doctors have long complained that officials are unwilling to recognise their qualifications.

Although the doctors studied had come from many countries, the predominant ones were Egypt, India, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Poland and Yugoslavia.

"These kinds of suggestions make a lot of sense," he said.

But the IMF chief responded sharply to a reporter's suggestion that his organisation's policies had led to the over-exploitation of natural resources to pay debts and ruined the environment in the process.

"It is not the programmes of the IMF that created environmental catastrophe," he said. "It is poorly managed macro-economic policies."

Mr. Camdessus said the IMF was now encouraging member states to adjust their tax, subsidy, trade and pricing policies along environmentally sound lines. But he also emphasised the human element.

Turkey urged to do more to cut inflation

ANKARA (R) — Leading Turkish economists poured cold water on figures that show a sharp drop in prices in May and urged the government to "hold" down manufacturing sector prices to secure a permanent decline in inflation.

"The core inflation is the price rises in private sector manufacturing industry. They are still running at above 3.5 per cent a month," Ernie Yeldan of Bilkent University said.

Annual consumer price inflation fell to 69.9 per cent in May from 74 per cent in April. Monthly May inflation was at a 10-year low at 0.9 per cent, against 3.8 per cent in April.

Economists said a sharp fall in agricultural food prices because of good weather helped the government curb inflation, for which its official target this year is 42 per cent.

"There is not a decline in inflation. He have to look at manufacturing industry. The fall in May entirely stemmed from the decline in agricultural prices," Professor Ercan Uygur said. "It shouldn't be perceived as the start of a lasting decline."

Monthly wholesale inflation in the manufacturing sector was 4.3 per cent in May while the decline in agricultural prices pulled down the overall index rise to only 0.7 per cent.

Despite worries among economists, the May figures have increased optimism among Turks and strengthened public support for Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel's coalition government.

Coalition partners won about 58 per cent of the votes in Sunday's local by-elections held in 341 towns.

"It was a mistake for the government to set the target at a very low level. Any annual figure below 60 per cent should be seen as a success," a private bank manager said.

Almost all the economists said the government should narrow the public deficit, running at 15 per cent of gross national product, to fulfil its promise of single-digit inflation.

"We will probably keep the

budget deficit at the targeted level this year," Finance Minister Samer Oral told Reuters.

Revenues in the first four months were above targets and expenditures remained within the limits anticipated.

"It will not be possible to halt inflation if tax revenues cannot be raised to a level which may balance budget expenditures," Erdinc Ozelcuk, chief economist at Turkish Industrial Development Bank, told an international congress.

Nigeria Airways chief slams financial waste

LAGOS (R) — The new chief executive of troubled Nigeria Airways, Mohammed Joji, has accused the national carrier of past financial wastage and said its accounts had not been audited for four years.

"The federal government has spent \$100 million on the airline over the past five years but there is nothing to show for it," Mr. Joji, announcing cost-cutting measures, told reporters.

His scathing attack was seen as part of efforts to clean up the airline's image and improve its financial footing ahead of government plans to sell most of its shares later this year.

The airline, serving routes in Africa, Europe, the Middle East and the United States, has 16 passenger aircraft. Most of them were bought before the oil boom soured in the early 1980s and, with corruption, sent Nigeria's economy into a tailspin.

Mr. Joji, named chief executive in January, said arrangements were being made to have the airline's accounts audited for the first time since 1987.

He described as an economic calamity and recklessness some of the cash spent on cleaning aircraft and maintaining them abroad.

Mr. Joji said the airline's in-flight services were one of the poorest in the industry, despite an annual expenditure of 58 million naira (\$3.0 million) on food from 115 suppliers.

His cost-cutting measures included sending 36 engineers on refresher courses abroad to carry out advanced aircraft checks and hiring consultants to help domestic maintenance.

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Guns quiet in Sarajevo

BELGRADE (R) — Rebel Serb forces laying siege to the Bosnian capital of Sarajevo held their fire on Tuesday to regroup after suffering their first setback in two months of fighting, local reporters said.

Sporadic shooting was heard in the capital but there was no sign of the blistering Serb bombardments of the past three days which cut a swath of death and destruction through the city.

Muslim and Croat defence forces, defying a two-month Serb siege which has 300,000 civilians trapped in desperate conditions, took three hills and parts of a

fourth on Monday in their first serious counter-attack, the reporters said.

The fighting left streets littered with bodies and rubble, and knocked out power for hours. It was the first real setback for the Serb irregulars ringing Sarajevo. Unofficial estimates said dozens of people were killed and more than 350 wounded.

In New York the U.N. Security Council unanimously approved a plan on Monday to send in 1,100 U.N. troops to take control of Sarajevo airport, held by Serb irregulars, to fly in relief supplies.

But the plan requires a durable ceasefire first and that appears a long way off given the intensity of the fighting over the past four days.

The United States said on Monday many civilians were slowly starving to death in Sarajevo, capital of the newly-independent Balkan state of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Our sources confirm that many people are slowly dying of hunger. Most are reduced to a diet of flour and nettles," said a U.S. State Department spokeswoman.

Local reporters noted the Serbs still have devastating fire-power and strong positions in the hills looking down on the capital. Serb forces could be seen regrouping in the hills, they said.

Muslim and Croat defenders struck out on Monday with heavy weapons and a sustained ground attack, capturing the heights of Vidikovac, Zuc Mojniko and lower slopes of Vraca, local reporters said.

Serb irregular forces acknowledged there had been a major counter-offensive but said they repulsed it and no territory in the city had changed hands.

What caused Yugoslavia's civil war?

THE COLLAPSE of Communism in Eastern Europe led to independence campaigns in Croatia and Slovenia, two of the six former Yugoslav republics. War broke out after the two republics declared independence on June 25, 1991. Fighting quickly died down in Slovenia, but later spread to Croatia. After Croatia, the war moved to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Who is fighting whom?

In Croatia, ethnic Serbs are fighting Croats. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, ethnic Serbs, long backed by the federal Yugoslav army, are pitted against ethnic Croats and Slavic Muslims.

Why are they fighting?

Ethnic Serbs in both Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina oppose the republics' independence. They say they want to remain tied to Serb-led Yugoslavia, which is now composed of only Serbia and its tiny ally Montenegro.

Why is there continuing ethnic rivalry?

Tensions between Croats and Serbs are fanned by memories of the World War II slaughter of Serbs by a Nazi puppet regime in Croatia. During the war, thousands of Croats were also killed by Serbs. Muslims fought both Serbs and Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina from 1941 to 1945.

How many people have died in the current civil war?

At least 10,000 people have died in Croatia and at least 5,700 in

Bosnia-Herzegovina. But these figures are incomplete.

What is the estimated number of refugees?

An estimated 1.2 million people have fled their homes in Bosnia-Herzegovina; 700,000 others have been displaced in Croatia. Many of the refugees have been driven from their homes by Serb militias in order to create "ethnically clean" areas.

What is the world doing?

For a long time the Western world looked paralysed at what was unfolding in the former six-republic Yugoslav federation. The European Community and, increasingly, the United Nations have tried to mediate the conflict. Many ceasefire pacts have been violated by all sides in the fighting.

What role is the United Nations playing in trying to halt warfare in Bosnia?

The U.S. Security Council on May 30 imposed an economic and oil embargo on Serbia and Montenegro, which it holds responsible for the fighting in Bosnia.

In addition, the Security Council on June 8 approved sending 60 military observers to Sarajevo as a first step towards making relief flights possible to the besieged Bosnian capital. A 14,000-member U.N. force is being deployed in Croatia, but its job is only to keep a ceasefire established in January.

Amnesty says S. African police implicated in killings

LONDON (R) — Amnesty International alleged on Wednesday that South-African police and military were implicated in recent political killings.

The human rights group said the reform process in South Africa could break down unless the government, which it says has been "at best grossly negligent" takes steps to end the abuses.

"The reforms of the past two years have brought some sweeping changes to South Africa but as far as the security forces are concerned it is business as usual," Amnesty said.

"And all too often that means taking part in political killings or standing by while others massacre political opponents."

The 100-page report gives what Amnesty says is evidence of systematic police and military involvement in torture and assassination in the past two years.

It alleges that security forces "have continued their war against the African National Congress (ANC) and allied organisations — and the government has been slow to react despite the mounting evidence against the police."

Amnesty alleges that where there have been official inquiries they have been "hampered by violence and marked by official

failure to act on their conclusions."

It says police threatened and shot at witnesses during an investigation into police torture and killings in western Transvaal. No prosecutions followed judicial inquiries in 1990 and 1991 into military and police "death squads."

Among incidents on which Amnesty reports in detail was an attack which it says has conducted by supporters of the Zulu Inkatha movement on Phola squatter camp east of Johannesburg in September 1990 when 80 people were killed.

Amnesty said it had affidavits from 100 witnesses alleging that white men, some wearing balaclavas, led attacks by armed Inkatha supporters.

Witnesses said police "appeared to have taken no serious steps to halt the attacks or to apprehend the attackers."

It alleges that police also stood by when Inkatha supporters killed 80 people in Pietermaritzburg townships in March 1990.

Amnesty said the message received by its representatives in South African townships and squatter camps "was one of enormous frustration, anger and fear."

"The residents felt unprotected

from murderous attacks against them in their homes and while commuting to and from work."

The report said Amnesty representatives met government and police officials in December 1991 and were told that police failure to intervene in political violence or make arrests "reflected their lack of resources, not a lack of will."

10 killed last week

At least 10 people, including a teenager "necklaced" with a burning tyre, were killed in South Africa's black townships in weekend violence, police said on Monday.

Police and the ANC gave differing versions of a clash in Soweto township outside Johannesburg on Sunday in which police shot dead two young ANC members.

Police said they shot the men, aged 20 and 21, when they opened fire on a crowd of 300 blacks who were trying to free a suspected car thief from a police van.

They said the man was arrested while he and two companions pushed a car engine through Soweto on a wheelbarrow. Two of the suspects fled.

British press faces threats of curbs over 'suicide' story

LONDON (R) — Britain's gossip media faced the threat of curbs on Tuesday in a backlash against its reporting of allegations that Princess Diana tried to kill herself.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, sharply rebuked the media as allegations that Princess Diana has had a troubled marriage to her-to-be Prince Charles made headlines for a fifth day.

The media had gone beyond the bounds of what "a society claiming to respect basic human values" should observe, said the head of the Church of England.

Editors also came in for savage criticism from the Press Complaints Commission which spoke on Monday of "an odious exhibition of journalists dabbling their fingers in the stuff of other people's souls."

The commission oversees voluntary code of press conduct which the government will review in July, under pressure from members of parliament for new laws to curb media intrusion into private lives.

The cabinet minister responsible, National Heritage Secretary David Mellor, said many people would welcome the commission's statement.

Harrods, the fashionable London department store which is patronised by the royals, said on Monday it would not sell "Diana: Her True Story," the book by Andrew Morton which triggered the frenzy in the British press.

It is being serialised by the Sunday Times and says Princess Diana made five "suicide bids" early in her marriage, on one occasion using a serrated lemon slicer.

Other newspapers have had their own stories about what they say is a troubled union between Princess Diana, 30, and Prince Charles, 42, who had crisis talks on Monday with his mother, Queen Elizabeth.

Sunday Times editor Andrew Neil hit back at critics, saying the king-in-waiting's marriage was a legitimate matter of public interest. He issued a signed statement by a man who was used as a source by Mr. Morton.

The royal "mole" identified himself as James Gibley, a 35-year-old bachelor who escorted the then Lady Diana Spencer around town before her marriage in 1981.

"I can confirm that the princess discussed with me on numerous occasions her attempted suicides as she has done with other close

friends," said Mr. Gibley. The backlash failed to dent enthusiasm for the story among several tabloids.

"Suicide!" he poured out her heart to me," said the splash in Tuesday's Sun which is owned, like the Sunday Times, by Australian tycoon Rupert Murdoch.

Princess Diana was pictured giving cameramen an icy glare as she took eldest son William, nine, to school.

The 1,000-year-old British monarchy has been shaken by the failure of two royal marriages in recent months — Princess Anne's divorce from husband Mark and Prince Andrew's split from flame-haired "Fergie," the Duchess of York.

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Both have complained of intimidation and even torture and the PDI claimed one of its supporters died after being beaten by police.

The opposition has persistently attacked the government's economic policies for favouring the rich and its reluctance to allow more democracy.

The opposition say vote-rigging cheated them out of more seats in parliament in the election five years ago.

This time the government has promised a clean election but analysts say that in many rural areas where the bulk of the population lives the local bureaucracy will still ensure a handsome Golkar win.

Reports from around the city said it was very quiet and the turnout fairly high.

"I'm just using my right to vote but I don't expect much from the people I choose," office worker Mohammad Rizal said while queuing under the mid-morning sun at a polling station in east Jakarta.

"They (members of parliament) mostly come, sit, listen and leave."

There are nearly 300,000 polling booths around the scattered islands of the tropical archipelago.

About 107 million Indonesians are eligible to vote. Legislative elections are held every five years and usually have turnouts of more than 90 per cent.

Political analysts predicted the ruling Golkar Party would win less than the 73 per cent of the vote it took in 1987, though not much less.

"I think they'll probably drop a few points," said one diplomat. Some analysts said it would be embarrassing for a government which says it wants to encourage greater democracy to win too big a majority.

In the cities and more rebellious provinces, political analysts say there is strong support for the two small opposition parties — the populist Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) and the Muslim-based United Development Party (PPP).

Czechoslovak crisis deepens, split looms

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (Agencies) — Talks between the two rivals charged with governing Czechoslovakia broke up Tuesday without agreement on how to prevent the country from breaking apart, media reported.

"The federation is lost," Václav Klaus, a Czech, was quoted by the state news agency CTK as saying after talks with populist Slovak leader Vladimir Meciar.

Mr. Klaus, the conservative federal finance minister, was tapped as federal premier after weekend parliamentary elections.

There was no immediate comment on the talks from Meciar, whose party fared strongest in the weekend balloting in Slovakia, the poorer eastern third of the country.

"The talks revealed deep and fundamental differences... on the future structure of Czechoslovakia," Mr. Klaus told reporters.

Mr. Klaus said there would be new talks Thursday on who should sit in the new federal cabinet. It was not immediately clear, however, whether Meciar's movement would designate anybody to take part in the federal government.

Mr. Klaus is a convinced supporter of a continued Czech-Slovak federation and his party won elections in the Czech lands, the most populous western two-thirds of the country, on that programme. He is the driving force behind economic reform, which has caused hardship in Slovakia.

Mr. Meciar, by contrast, campaigned for Slovak sovereignty — one step short of independence — a separate Slovak constitution and a referendum on whether Slovakia breaks away from the federation.

He heads the Movement for a

Democratic Slovakia, or HZDS in Slovak. It won almost 30 per cent of the vote for the regional Slovak parliament. Mr. Meciar said Sunday that the body could declare sovereignty soon after it meets on June 23.

The outcome of the first Klaus-Meciar talks made the future look bleak for President Václav Havel, who indicated through his spokesman Monday he will not stand for re-election by the new federal parliament if Czechoslovakia heads for a split.

The spokesman, Michael Zantovsky, told reporters Monday that the president's candidacy depended on the continuation of a common state and economic and political reforms begun with the "velvet revolution" that Mr. Havel led against the communists in late 1989.

Mr. Klaus said he insisted at the talks with Mr. Meciar that Mr. Havel be re-elected president. Mr. Meciar said Sunday he rated Mr. Havel's chances of re-election as "minimal."

Mr. Meciar was ousted as Slovak premier in May 1991 by Mr. Havel's allies, and has made no secret of his dislike for the play-right-president.

"The federation is lost and according to HZDS, a common state is lost as well," Mr. Klaus said after the talks.

But he added that Mr. Meciar's people had said a final verdict on Czechoslovakia's future could come only in a referendum.

Mr. Meciar has said this should take place by year's end. "In that case, the only way is to hold the same referendum with the same question, in the Czech republic," Mr. Klaus told CTK.

Italians boycott local polls

ROME (R) — Italian leaders played for more time to form a new government on Tuesday after exasperated voters stayed away in droves from local elections and the results underscored the country's north-south divide.

President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro postponed until Wednesday what was planned as a last day of talks with party chiefs to end a two-month crisis since general elections in April crippled the main parties.

But it appeared Mr. Scalfaro might need a further round of talks — which would make it unlikely that he could name a prime minister before next week to head Italy's 51st government since World War II.

Officials released over-

night for partial local elections on Sunday and Monday showed low turnouts throughout Italy, with 23 per cent of voters not bothering to cast their ballots.

In the southern city of Naples, almost a third of voters — a record — stayed away from the polls.

The voting for 157 local administrations, with fewer than two million Italians eligible to vote, emphasised deep divisions between the wealthy north and struggling "mezzogiorno" (south).

In the northern city of Trieste, protest parties including the Neo-Fascists and the Northern Autonomy Leagues made the strongest gains.

But in Naples, voters gave a

slight boost to parties of the establishment including the dominant Christian Democrats (DC) of outgoing Premier Giulio Andreotti and the Socialists, his main partners in government.

Italy's deepening economic and moral crisis gave the election an importance out of proportion to its size.

It came after a city-wall bribery scandal, uncovered in Milan in February but only now revealing the extent of graft in local politics.

The authoritative Turin Daily La Stampa said the vote confirmed the trend set by the April polls, in which voters registered their disgust at political corruption but failed to elect any obvious alternative.

Indonesians vote in general elections

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesians went to the polls on Tuesday in a general election certain to hand victory to the ruling party of President Suharto who has led the world's fourth most populous country for almost 27 years.

At stake are 400 seats in the national assembly which has never initiated nor rejected any legislation during the 71-year-old Gen. Suharto's iron rule.

Another 100 assembly seats are given to the military which brought Gen. Suharto to power after crushing an attempted coup, blamed on the now-banned Communist Party in 1965.

Jakarta was almost empty of traffic as many people stayed away from work in the morning to vote.

Reports from around the city said it was very quiet and the turnout fairly high.

"I'm just using my right to vote but I don't expect much from the people I choose," office worker Mohammad Rizal said while queuing under the mid-morning sun at a polling station in east Jakarta.

"They (members of parliament) mostly come, sit, listen and leave."

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Japan troops bill passes upper house

TOKYO (R) — Japan's upper house of parliament approved early on Tuesday a controversial bill that would allow Japanese troops to serve abroad in peacekeeping missions for the first time since the end of World War II.

The bill, voted in plenary session by 137 against 102, now goes back to the more powerful lower house for final approval.

The original version of the bill, drafted by the government, passed the lower house in December. But it was watered down after strong opposition from the Socialists and Communists.

The revised text would ban the government from committing troops to such U.N. combat duties as separating warring factions. Separate legislation would be needed to lift the ban.

By agreeing on a diluted ver-

sion, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) sealed a pact with two small centrist parties to gain a voting majority in the upper house.

The government first mooted the bill in late 1990 when the United States was seeking partners for a military coalition to force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Japan, hampered by its anti-militarist laws, was unable to contribute troops or military equipment but instead donated some \$13 billion towards the Gulf war effort.

But, to the government's chagrin, it still came in for bitter allied criticism that it was seeking to safeguard its vital oil supplies from the Gulf by paying soldiers of other countries to fight for Japan's interests.

Perot 'plans' unconventional convention

DALLAS (Agencies) — Ross Perot is planning to hold a national political gathering after the Democratic and Republican presidential nominating conventions this summer but he has not yet chosen a date or a place, a spokesman said on Monday.

"We're anticipating there will be some kind of event, some kind of celebration for getting Mr. Perot on the ballot and for announcing a vice presidential candidate," Mr. Perot aide James Squires told Reuters. "But it certainly will not be a conventional convention."

The Democratic Party will formally nominate Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton as its presidential candidate at a national convention set for July 13-16 in New York. The Republican Party will nominate President George Bush for re-election on August 17-20 in Houston.

Mr. Perot, a Texas billionaire businessman, is expected to seek the presidency as an independent candidate in the November election.

Mr. Squires said any decision on a Perot "convention" location was premature. "We're not even close to picking a site," he said. "It's just so up in the air."

Perot leads

Meanwhile, President Bush's approval rating dropped again this month in a nationwide poll released Monday, and independent candidate Perot continued to lead in a three-way matchup with the president and Mr. Clinton.

The ABC news-Washington Post poll also asked respondents to name which candidate was strongest on specific issues. The candidates were seen as strongest on the issues they've been pushing in their campaigns: Mr. Bush was seen as strongest on foreign affairs and traditional family values; Mr. Clinton on inner-city problems and the middle class and Mr. Perot on economic issues.

Thirty-five per cent approved of Mr. Bush's job performance, down from 40 per cent in an

ABC-Post poll on May 12. His approval rating hit an all-time high of 90 per cent in March 1991, just after the Gulf war.

The 35 per cent rating is the lowest of his presidency in an ABC-Post poll.

In a three-way general election matchup, Mr. Perot had 38 per cent, Mr. Bush had 30 per cent and Mr. Clinton had 26 per cent, virtually unchanged from the May survey.

But the respondents said they were supporting candidates by default. Nearly half of Mr. Perot's supporters said they don't like him so much as they dislike the other candidates; 45 per cent of Mr. Clinton's supporters and 40 per cent of Mr. Bush's said the same thing.

Mr. Perot Monday sought views for his independent platform from a group of important mayors discussing big-city needs at a conference in Texas.

And, in an ominous development for President Bush and Mr. Clinton, some party politicians have started to tie themselves to

Mr. Perot's coattails and run for office as "Perot independents."

Others are thinking about it.

For several weeks Mr. Perot has been soliciting opinions on such issues as gun control, drug treatment and urban woes.

Monday's meeting, arranged at the Texas tycoon's request, was part of Mr. Perot's plan to gather views and prepare positions before he launches his independent presidential bid.

Playing to public dissatisfaction with the governing process, and clearly with an eye to Mr. Perot's independent status, Mr. Clinton insisted he too is an "outsider" in the political establishment despite his argument that he can work with the democratically controlled Congress to pass a broad programme of measures.

"I'm not talking about exonerating Congress for any of the past problems," Mr. Clinton told reporters before flying to New York for a fund-raiser.

Mr. Clinton said this weekend he would submit a broad legislative proposal before the Demo-



Ross Perot

cratic national convention to show that, as a Democrat, he would be able to work with Congress and quickly enact healthcare and job proposals.

Mr. Bush on Monday tried to rebut critics of his environmental positions at the Earth Summit in Brazil with an offensive promoting his own environmental record.

COLUMN

British condoms to buy chickens for the Saudis

NEW YORK (AP) — A jury found a bogus scheme to trade British condoms for Soviet poultry about as funny as a rubber chicken. The jury in U.S. district court in Manhattan has convicted a Detroit lawyer of defrauding investors of \$75,000 in a fictitious deal to buy chickens in England, barter them for chickens in the Soviet Union and sell the birds to Saudi Arabia. Thomas M. Muccante, 32, of Grosse Pointe, Mich., also was found guilty of passing \$3.26 million in counterfeit Australian bonds to a former client. The government charged that Mr. Muccante in March 1991 gave the former client, Stuart M. Berger, a Manhattan doctor and author, four phony bonds he had made on a personal computer using desktop publishing software. Prosecutors showed during the seven-week trial that Muccante used some of the money to pay off two other men duped into investing in the condom deal. But the jury acquitted Muccante of some charges linking the bond and condom schemes.

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